

1 CLAIMS

2 I claim:

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4 1. A denture comprising:

5  
6 a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between  
7 the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the  
8 inner and the outer walls, the tray being generally U-shaped, and  
9 a tooth receiving portion;

10 a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

11 a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving material  
12 applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum  
13 receiving member; the gum receiving member being deformable when  
14 subjected to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but  
15 less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.), the reline material  
16 conforming to the configuration of a gum received within the gum-  
17 receiving member.

18  
19 2. The denture as described in claim 1, wherein the gum receiving  
20 material is a denture reline material.

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22 3. The denture as described in claim 2, wherein the reline material  
23 is selected from the group consisting of acrylic reline material  
24 and silicone reline material.

25  
26 4. The denture as described in claim 3, wherein the gum is a gum  
27 of a user of the denture.

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29 5. The denture as described in claim 4, wherein the denture is an  
30 upper denture, and the upper denture does not include a palate.

31  
32 6. The denture as described in claim 4, wherein the reline  
33 material has a thickness between approximately 1 mm and  
34 approximately 5 mm.

1 7. A method for fitting a denture in situ in the mouth of an  
2 individual, the method comprising the steps of:

3  
4 selecting the denture to fit the individual, the denture  
5 comprising:

6 a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between  
7 the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the  
8 inner and the outer walls, the tray being generally U-shaped, and  
9 a tooth receiving portion;

10 a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

11 a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving material  
12 applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum  
13 receiving member; the gum receiving member being deformable when  
14 subjected to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but  
15 less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.);

16  
17 preparing the selected denture by heating the selected denture  
18 to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than 100  
19 degrees C (212 degrees F);

20  
21 positioning the prepared denture within the mouth, the gum  
22 receiving member receiving a gum of the individual; and

23  
24 fitting the denture by the application of a force to the  
25 denture.

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27 8. The method as described in claim 7, wherein the force is a  
28 biting force.

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30 9. The method as described in claim 8, wherein the force is  
31 applied for a time period sufficient for the gum receiving member  
32 to conform to the gum.

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34 10. The method as described in claim 9, wherein the time period is  
35 between approximately 1 minute and approximately 30 minutes.

1 11. The method as described in claim 9, wherein the heating step  
2 comprises immersion of the selected denture in water at a  
3 temperature between approximately 38 degrees C and approximately  
4 95 degrees C.

5  
6 12. The method as described in claim 11, wherein the heating step  
7 comprises immersion of the selected denture in water at a  
8 temperature between approximately 45 degrees C and approximately  
9 80 degrees C.

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11 13. The method as described in claim 11, further comprising the  
12 step of fitting a second denture in the mouth, the second denture  
13 being fitted in opposition to the first denture.

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15 14. The method as described in claim 13, wherein the individual is  
16 edentulous.

17  
18 15. The method as described in claim 13, wherein the first denture  
19 is selected from the group consisting of a lower denture and an  
20 upper denture.

1 16. A kit for fitting a denture in situ in the mouth of an  
2 individual, the kit comprising:

3 a denture, comprising:

4 a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between  
5 the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the  
6 inner and the outer walls, the tray being generally U-shaped, and  
7 a tooth receiving portion;

8 a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

9 a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving material  
10 applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum  
11 receiving member; the gum receiving member being deformable when  
12 subjected to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but  
13 less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.); the reline material  
14 conformable to the configuration of an item received within the  
15 gum-receiving member; and •

16  
17 a set of instructions.  
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19 17. The kit as described in claim 16, wherein the denture is  
20 selected from the group consisting of an upper denture; a lower  
21 denture; and an upper denture and a lower denture.  
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23 18. The kit as described in claim 16, wherein the upper denture  
24 does not include a palate.  
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1 19. An upper denture comprising:

2 a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between  
3 the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the  
4 inner and the outer walls, and a tooth receiving portion;

5 a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

6 a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving material  
7 applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum  
8 receiving member; the gum receiving member being deformable when  
9 subjected to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but  
10 less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.);

11 the tray being generally U-shaped and lacking a palate.  
12

13 20. A denture for being fitted in situ in the mouth of an  
14 individual in need of a denture, the denture comprising:  
15

16 a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between  
17 the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the  
18 inner and the outer walls, the tray being generally U-shaped, and  
19 a tooth receiving portion;

20 a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

21 a layer of denture reline material, the denture reline  
22 material selected from the group consisting of acrylic reline  
23 material and silicone reline material, the reline material applied  
24 to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum receiving  
25 member, the gum receiving member being deformable when subjected to  
26 a temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than 100  
27 degrees C (212 degrees F.), the reline material conforming to the  
28 configuration of a gum received within the gum-receiving member.  
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